

[Mr. COCHRAN] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 85, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that individuals affected by breast cancer should not be alone in their fight against the disease.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

EMPLOYEE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I recently added my name to the list of 37 cosponsors of S. 127 on behalf of those hard-working folks who are trying to get ahead in their jobs by going back to school while they work. The Employee Educational Assistance Act will make permanent the tax exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance under section 127 of the Internal Revenue Code. By doing so, it will remove the penalty part-time students face in the form of higher taxes when their employers provide educational assistance.

Mr. President, this bill's sponsor, Senator MOYNIHAN, said it well: This is a very effective program which requires no bureaucracy and which administers itself. Employers and employees arrange for the educational assistance, and the Government's role is to stay out of the way. For example, MSE Technologies Inc. in Butte, MT, provides assistance to its employees who are working on undergraduate or graduate degrees. For MSE this is a wise investment in its employees and helps to keep the company competitive. With section 127 in place, employees can receive up to \$5,250 annually in tuition reimbursements from their employer without paying additional taxes. Without section 127, employees are taxed on the educational assistance they receive. This tax is exactly the wrong message to send to businesses and their employees trying to stay ahead.

Section 127, which first went into effect in 1979, will expire in 3 months. The provision has been extended numerous times, and it has widespread support. But the uncertainty of the provision's future has been disruptive to workers and made planning ahead difficult. The full potential of its benefits to workers and employers is not being met, and it won't be until we make it permanent. Let's make helping American workers stay competitive a top priority.●

ABORTION

• Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I agree with a May 10, 1997, New York Times editorial regarding legislation to ban so-called partial-birth abortions and the alternatives to it which we are considering today in the Senate. The editorial states,

These proposed bills, while well intentioned, still interfere in judgments best left to doctors and their patients. Some of the 40

states that have passed or are considering bans on 'partial-birth' abortions have fallen into the same trap. Whether at the state or the Federal level, these political intrusions into medical practice and attempts to limit women's access to abortions deserve to be defeated.

I am opposed to the Government making medical decisions that should be handled by qualified physicians on a case-by-case basis. During my 22 years in the Senate, I have voted to uphold the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe versus Wade* decision that a woman's right to choose whether to have an abortion is protected, within specified limits, under the constitutional right to privacy. This means that a woman can make her own choice, based on her moral and religious beliefs and in consultation with her family, her physician, her priest, rabbi, minister, or whomever she chooses. I respect the heartfelt views of those who are opposed to abortion, but I do not believe they should be imposed on those who hold a different but equally firm conviction.

Having said that, I did support Senator FEINSTEIN's amendment as a substitute to the partial-birth abortion ban. Senator FEINSTEIN's amendment would have banned postviability abortions, but like *Roe versus Wade*, it includes exceptions for cases where the attending physician makes a medical decision that the abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the woman or to avert serious adverse health consequences. As you know, under the provisions of *Roe, States* can pass such laws now. If this amendment had passed, I believe late-term abortions would remain available to women who need them for serious medical reasons.

I opposed Senator DASCHLE's amendment because I believe its health exception could provide roadblocks to a woman seeking a late-term abortion for serious medical reasons. I have concerns about the constitutionality of the health exceptions in this amendment because they are more restrictive than those in *Roe versus Wade*.

Mr. President, the American people overwhelmingly support the right of a woman to choose regarding abortion. This does not mean they are pro-abortion, it means they are pro-choice as I am. I urge my colleagues to oppose the partial-birth abortion ban, which is clearly unconstitutional, and to allow women and their physicians to make the best decisions based on each individual case.●

RAINN DAY

• Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, in 1995, there were over 350,000 victims of rape or sexual assault. The Uniform Crime Reports indicate that means that there is one forcible rape every 5 minutes. The most startling aspect of sex crimes is that they go unreported. There are estimates that only 37 percent of all rapes are reported to the police.

Victims of rape and sexual assault need a place to turn to and RAINN's

national toll-free hotline for survivors of sexual assault reaches them. The hotline provides callers access to counseling 24 hours a day, from anywhere in the country.

RAINN is an acronym for rape, abuse, and incest national network. When a survivor calls the 800 number, a computer identifies the caller's location by reading the area code and the first three digits of the phone number. The call is routed to the rape crisis center nearest the caller. If the line is busy, the call will be routed to the next closest center.

RAINN networks with 628 crisis centers across the Nation, responding to victim's immediate needs. Since its inception in 1994, this organization has helped more than 140,000 victims of sexual assault.

I am bringing attention to the tremendous work of RAINN because at noon today, on May 16, radio stations across the United States will interrupt their regular programming to play a song from a rape survivor, Tori Amos. This is a nationwide call to action—a way to raise public awareness to what is happening to those victimized by rapists.

I am proud to be an honorary co-chair of RAINN and commend all those involved in working on this national hotline, one of the most valuable resources for the survivor of rape or sexual abuse.

RAINN was founded in July 1994 with grants from the Atlantic Group and Warner Music Group. Support is also provided by Westwood One, MCI, the Jacobs Family Foundation, the Ryka Rose Foundation, and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences.●

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 19, 1997

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until the hour of 12 p.m. on Monday, May 19. I further ask unanimous consent that on Monday, immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate then be in a period of morning business with Senators recognized to speak up to 5 minutes, with the following exceptions: Senator HELMS, 20 minutes; Senator DASCHLE or his designee, 45 minutes; and Senator ASHCROFT or his designee from the hour of 1:30 to 2:15.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR RECORD TO REMAIN OPEN

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD stay open until the hour of 3 p.m. today to allow Senators to submit statements for the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.